



Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

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May 9, 2011

The Honorable John Walsh
Chair
House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Rick Jones
Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairmen Jones and Walsh:

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan supports the expungement reforms in SB 159, 244, and HB 4106.

As noted in our Blueprint for a Safer Michigan, we believe that judges should have greater discretion to expunge the records of defendants who have turned their lives around. For individuals who have truly reformed, removing a conviction is a key step to employment, and a job is the best program to end recidivism.

These bills responsibly broaden the discretion of a judge to grant an expungement, while insuring that offenders with convictions for serious crimes of violence and sex offenses will retain their criminal record forever.

While we support all three bills, PAAM prefers the broader discretion provided to a judge contained in HB 4106. That bill allows the judge to expunge either 1 felony, or 2 misdemeanors that may have a penalty of up to 1 year, while the other bills limits the 2 potential misdemeanor expungements to offenses with penalties of less than 90 days.

Thank you again for addressing this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Schafer
President